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COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT: Military Information from Weimar

DATE OF INFORMATION: 1 September to 1 October 1951

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ment belonging to the former airfield of Weimar-Nohra (M 51/J 57), where German civilians had been living was requisitioned for military purposes. Fifteen of the settlement houses were occupied by ~~German~~ families, and three other houses remained vacant for the time being. The Sophienhaus (hospital) was mostly vacant. The army headquarters, the Soviet banking establishment and the hospital outpatient department, previously located there, were moved to the barracks buildings on the south side of National Highway No 7. An officers' mess and club were established there and equipped with furniture from the Schloss Museum. German authorities, who inspected the vacated Sophienhaus, estimated that it would be very expensive to recondition the hospital installations and surgical wards.

2. German craftsmen started reconditioning the Goethe School on 1 September, because the school was to be returned to the municipal administration. However, the reconditioning work was suddenly stopped, and, since 20 September, German language courses for Soviet officers have been resumed in the school. It was said that the installation would again be occupied to capacity by about 500 officers on 1 October. (1)

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3. Until 11 October, the Nachrichten Kaserne quartered about 1,000 troops, who were black-bordered black epaulets. Trucks observed in the installation (2) The Panzer Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops who also wore black-bordered black epaulets.

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4. On 6 October, source learned that the Soviet offices from the Sophienhaus and the Goethe School had moved to Nohra airfield at the end of September. The two vacated installations were allegedly returned to the German municipal administration. (1)
5. Large-scale reconditioning work was done in the Flieger Kaserne, Nohra, until the end of September. Billeting equipment was trucked away from the installation, and furniture, including some from the Elefant Hotel, was hauled to the Flieger Kaserne. Trucks, which were seen hauling upholstered chairs and good quality furniture to the installation on 25 September.

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REMARKS

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Comments.

(1) The sources coincidentally state that the Hq Eighth Gds Army was moved from the Sophienhaus to the barracks section of Weimar-Nohra airfield on the south side of National Highway No 7 at the end of September 1951. The information in paragraphs 2 and 4 conflicts, but the Goethe School east of the Sophienhaus may have still housed officer training courses in October 1951.

(2) Other sources periodically reported from 400 to 600 troops in the Nahrichten Kaserne on Leibnizallee. Only 200 to 300 troops were observed there in July and September 1951. The information has been received on the return of units to the installation or on the increase of the troops to 1,000 as stated in the present report.

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(3) The identity of the units in the Panzer Kaserne on Jenaer Strasse has not been determined to date.

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The installation was previously reported to have quartered between 200 and 300 troops. Troops with black-bordered black epaulets are reported there for the first time.

(4) Another source also reported that Saale River bridges in Kreis Merseburg were reinforced at the end of September 1951.

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An undated order by the Transportation Division of the SCC to the effect that road bridges in the Soviet Zone of Germany were to be reinforced so that they would have a load capacity of 80 tons instead of the previous 60 tons. Another report stated that this program was allegedly discontinued in September 1951 because of the shortage of building material.

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